

Colossians, A Study pt.9

Verses 1:10–14

If you have your copy of God's word, turn with me to Colossians 1.

(We will read the entire chapter, but focus our attention on vv. 10–12. Read chapter)

Last week, we began to look at the ways Paul gives for us to live in a manner worthy of the Lord!

I would remind you that, contextually, Paul in v. 9 told us that he was unceasingly praying for the saints.

The *content* of his prayer is that they “may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

This prayer is one for them to ultimately know the plan and purposes of God!

And what this told us is that the will of God can be known.

That He reveals His will and makes it plain in order that we may bring Him glory!

And this is exactly what v. 10 tells us!

If verse 9 is the *content* of Paul's prayer, then v. 10 is the *cause* of his prayers!

In other words, v. 10 tells us why Paul prayed for what he did!

What this makes abundantly clear is that the will of God is not just something to be known and studied, it is to be obeyed and accomplished!

So here is a principle that is really important to grasp:

Seeking to know the will of God disconnected from obedience is to be disobedient and self-deceived! (2x)

This is the plain truth of James 1:22,

“**22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. “

Knowledge separated from obedience is to be disobedient and self-deceived..

So, when it comes to the will of God, He reveals it so that we may accomplish it!

Now, as we seek to understand the purpose or cause of Paul’s prayer in v. 10, (which is to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him.”) we ask, “How am I to do this?”

We ask, “What constitutes a life lived in a manner worthy of the Lord?”

The answer to that question is revealed in the text.

(SIDENOTE: Whenever you are in a text, it is necessary to ask the *right* questions. And as you ask the right questions you are able to hear the text give you the answer.)

As the text speaks to give us the answer, we see the answer is a four part answer that concludes with a statement of the redemptive work of God through Christ!

The four ways we are able to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord are found in the verbal phrases found in vv.10–12):

There are four main verbal phrases:

1. **Bearing** fruit...
2. **Increasing** in knowledge...
3. **Being** strengthened...
4. **Giving** thanks...

These four verbal phrases help us to make sense of what it means to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

The last time we were together we looked at the first two ways:

1. **Bearing Fruit...**
2. **Increasing in knowledge...**

(Very quick reminder of these ways:

1. Bearing fruit: God has saved us to work! We could say it this way, our salvation is not based on works, but our works are based on our salvation!

2. Increasing in knowledge: Is squarely based on the understanding of the word of God and its application to your life!

This is obvious but there cannot be an increase in the knowledge of God apart from gaining more information about Him!)

With the time we have left, let's consider the last two ways to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord!

3. **The third way is by being strengthened by God for all endurance and patience with joy.**

Notice first, that the strength we receive is divine.

We are strengthened "according to his glorious power."

That is to say the strength that we receive comes from the God who has strength.

Let me say it this way: God does not strengthen us with a borrowed strength!

This is not recycled strength! This is not a strength that derives its potency from another source but God!

He strengthens us according to the strength that He possesses!

And what type of power does He have!?

His power is:

- **Incomprehensible**

- Total (All-encompassing)
- Enduring
- Eternal

It's the time of power that created the universe!

It's the type of power that raised the Lord Jesus from the dead!

It's the type of power that transferred you from the kingdom of satan to the kingdom of Christ!

This is the power with which you are strengthened, it is divine power!

And notice the reason for this strength: it is for endurance and patience! (v.

The reason you are strengthened is for the purpose of being patient and being able to endure!

These two words, patience and endurance, have much in common.

Patience means to “remain under”

Endurance means to be “longsuffering”

The commonality of these words points to the fact that God provides His strength to us in order that we may not crumble beneath the weight of living in a sin curse world!

The reason we are able to maintain faith and are able to have our right minds in the midst of trials is that we are being strengthened by God to endure!

The reason we are able to grow in faith and not weaken in the midst of sorrow is because we are being strengthened by God to endure!

The reason why we are able to maintain a resolve to look to the hills from which comes our help is because we are being strengthened by God to endure!

This strength is a strength that doesn't bend or break!

This strength is a strength that doesn't need to be replenished or recharged!

In this way, it is not surprising that you endure, persevere and patience through trial: **YOU ARE BEING PRESERVED BY GOD!!**

The shock would be if we could sustain ourselves, which we know we can't!

But the fact that we endure and do so with joy is proof that God's power is greater than our circumstance!

That it is God who is strengthening us!

Paul, just like James, makes it a point that God grants us joy as we patiently endure.

This joy is a gladness that is sourced in God that looks to Him and not our situation for hope, peace, comfort and contentment!

This is the third way to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, by being strengthened by God to endure and be patient.

The fourth and final way revealed in the text to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord is giving thanks to the Father.

Just to give the ways again:

1. Bearing fruit...
2. Increasing in the knowledge of God..
3. Being strengthened...
4. Giving thanks...

Giving thanks to God is a by-product of remembering that He is the fountain from whom all our blessings flow!

Another way to say it: Thanks is owed to God because apart from Him we would literally have nothing!

This reality of giving thanks to God is prevalent in scripture!

In fact, it can be argued that the Christian faith is one of giving thanks!

Psalm 7:17

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

Psalm 30:4

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

v. 11, 12

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,
that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Daniel 6:10

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Paul routinely spoke of giving thanks and instructed the saint to give thanks!

1 Corinthians 1:4

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus...

Ephesians 1:16

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Ephesians 5:18–20

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thes. 5:16–18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

One of the attributes of the wicked is that they do not give thanks! They refuse to give thanks!

Romans 1:21

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking,

So, in a real way, to not be thankful to God is anti-Christian!

When we live with a heart posture of ingratitude we walk as children of darkness!

We live as though the totality of our lives is owing to us!

But when you give thanks, you necessarily recognize your limitations!

And when it comes to God, we are limited in every way; we depend on Him in every way!

God has given us much to be thankful for!

The greatest reason for thanks is the salvation he has granted us in Christ! (which is exactly how He is described in the text! Read v. 12. We will have to examine this at another time.)

So, what have we seen in the text?

We have observed the ways in which we can live in a manner worthy of the Lord!

These ways are:

1. Bearing fruit...
2. Increasing in the knowledge of God..
3. Being strengthened...
4. Giving thanks...

By the grace of God, if you seek to live a life like this you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and you will be fully pleasing to Him!

Let's Pray!